

Amendments to the Specification

Page 3, after line 32, please insert the following new paragraph:

Figs. 4e and 4f are fragmentary enlarged longitudinal sections through patterns of light extracting deformities on both sides of a panel member;

Page 9, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 28 with the following replacement paragraph:

By varying the density, opaqueness or translucence, shape, depth, color, area, index of refraction, or type of deformities 21 on an area or areas of the panels, the light output of the panels can be controlled. The deformities or disruptions may be used to control the percent of light emitted from any area of the panels. For example, less and/or smaller size deformities 21 may be placed on panel areas where less light output is wanted. Conversely, a greater percentage of and/or larger deformities may be placed on areas of the panels where greater light output is desired. Also the deformities on some areas of the panels may interlock or intersect other deformities as schematically shown in Fig. 4a.

Page 11, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 with the following replacement paragraph:

In addition to or in lieu of the patterns of light extracting deformities 21 shown in Fig. 4a, other light extracting deformities including prismatic surfaces, depressions or raised surfaces of various shapes using more complex shapes in a mold pattern may be molded, etched, stamped, thermoformed, hot stamped or the like into or on one or more

areas of the panel member. Figs. 4b and 4c show panel areas 22 on which prismatic surfaces 23 or depressions 24 are formed in the panel areas, whereas Fig. 4d shows prismatic or other reflective or refractive surfaces 25 formed on the exterior of the panel area that come together to form ridges 25' that are quite small in relation to the width and length of the light emitter. The prismatic surfaces, depressions or raised surfaces will cause a portion of the light rays contacted thereby to be emitted from the panel member. Also, the angles of the prisms, depressions or other surfaces may be varied to direct the light in different directions to produce a desired light output distribution or effect. Moreover, the reflective or refractive surfaces may have shapes or a pattern with no specific angles to reduce ~~moire~~ moiré or other interference effects.

Page 11, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 28 with the following replacement paragraph:

As best seen in the cross sectional view of Fig. 5, a back reflector (including trans reflectors) 26 may be attached or positioned against one side of the panel member 14 of Fig. 3 using a suitable adhesive 28 or other method in order to improve light output efficiency of the panel assembly 11 by reflecting the light emitted from that side back through the panel for emission through the opposite side. Additionally, a pattern of light extracting deformities 21, 23, 24 and/or 25 may be provided on one or both sides of the panel member in order to change the path of the light so that the internal critical angle is exceeded and a portion of the light is emitted from one or both sides of the panel. For example, Fig. 4e shows a pattern of light extracting deformities 25 on both sides of the panel member, whereas Fig. 4f shows a pattern of light

extracting deformities 25 on one side of the panel member and a pattern of light
extracting deformities 21 on the other side of the panel member. Moreover, a transparent film, sheet or plate 27 may be attached or positioned against the side or sides of the panel member from which light is emitted using a suitable adhesive 28 or other method in order to produce a desired effect.